

averages 41.5 cm. in height. Abbot promised a larger set, and could hardly have made the same 'error' again.

Another proof is the content of the Turnbull drawings (Parkinson, 1978). In their correspondence, Swainson initially agreed to Abbot's idea of including drawings of "some of the other Genera of Insects" in the set of *Papilio* and *Sphinx*, writing on the 25th October 1817 that "A few drawings of the other Genera of Insects would also be welcome, if accompanied by their metamorphos." The Turnbull drawings do indeed depict other insects, and not all Lepidoptera. These must have been the drawings Swainson complained about on the 28th January 1819 when he wrote (contradicting himself): "I only wish to have drawings of the Papillios & Sphinxes which are not in Smith."

Perhaps the replacement set was never provided, for when reporting the abandonment of the project in *Taxidermy*, Swainson mentioned only the short set of 103 drawings. The location of the 1835 "book of Drawings" is unknown, and it is uncertain whether these figured in the publication scheme at all. At least we know from the drawings and notes in the Turnbull Library (Parkinson, 1978) what the two supplementary volumes to "Smith and Abbot" would have contained had Swainson been satisfied with Abbot's efforts at the time.

In his article Parkinson mentions the manuscript "Notes" as "in a hand which may be Abbot's." I have obtained photocopies which prove that the notes are certainly in Abbot's distinctive hand, and in character are much like the observations used by Smith. — RONALD S. WILKINSON, 228 Ninth Street, N. E., Washington, D. C. 20002.

SWIMMING BEHAVIOUR IN *HYPERA RUMICIS* (LINNAEUS) (COL: CURCULIONIDAE). — During May 1981 I tested a few species of weevils (Curculionidae) for swimming ability, and among some other species I discovered that *Hypera rumicis* (Linnaeus) was capable of swimming quite efficiently. When a few adults of the weevil were placed in a small water filled plastic dish they were, after a brief period, observed to swim through the water fairly rapidly by making a definite breast 'stroke action' with all six legs. The actual swimming was performed by extending the forelegs first in a wide arc then the mid and hind pairs were brought into action at the same time, thus providing the necessary forward movement. Progress through the water was mainly by alternating movements of each pair of legs, but the greatest effectual stroke was made by the forelegs. The specimens of *H. rumicis* were also capable of performing the same swimming stroke while on their backs. Movement through the water was quite rapid in either position and this was especially noticeable when the temperature of the water was raised slightly.

The swimming action in *H. rumicis* was very similar to that of *Ceutorhynchus viduatus* Gyllenhal previously reported by me, (1978, *Entomologist's Gaz.* 29: 76) and it also appears to resemble, to some extent the motion and style performed by *Litodactylus leucogaster* (Marshall), as described recently in a paper dealing with

the general biology of this species by G. R. Buckingham and C. A. Bennett., (1981, *Ann. Entomol. Soc. Amer.* 74: 451-458.).

This adaptation in *Hypera rumicis* is interesting and rather intriguing as it is a weevil which is not usually associated with aquatic habitats or found in really damp situations.

In my experience of the species in West Cumbria I nearly always find it on Curled Dock, *Rumex crispus* L., and to a lesser extent on Broad leaved dock, *R. obtusifolius* L. where the plants grow in comparatively dry habitats and away from water. However, it is interesting to note that *H. rumicis* is known to feed and develop on the Great Water Dock, *Rumex hydrolapathum* Huds., so it would be very worthwhile to discover if the same swimming ability is also developed in individuals colonising this plant as well.

Swimming in certain species of Curculionidae is not uncommon, and a number of members in the subfamily Ceuthorhynchinae are known to be well adapted for a semi-aquatic life. One example is *Eubrychius velutus* (Beck) which is known to possess a very efficient plastron respiration system as described by W. R. Thorpe and D. J. Crisp, (1949, *J. exp. Biol.* 26: 219-260) and this adaption enables the adults to stay submerged for long periods.

At the same time as I tested *H. rumicis* for swimming I also experimented with three other members of the genus, *H. dauci* (Olivier), *H. nigrirostris* (Fabricius) and *H. plantaginis* (Degeer). When these species were placed in water they made no attempt to perform any recognizable swimming stroke, but just merely floundered about in the water.

This would appear to be the first recorded observation on the swimming behaviour in *H. rumicis* and also the first on a member of the subfamily *Hyperinae*. — R. W. J. READ, 43 Holly Terrace, Hensingham, Whitehaven, Cumbria, CA28 8RF.

THE USE OF THE TERM 'POCK-MARK' IN ENTOMOLOGY. — Subscribers with a medical background will have been interested in Mr. Chalmers-Hunt's note in the March/April 1982 issue of the *Record*.

I wonder if they, as I, have searched unsuccessfully for cases of *Coleophora varicella* (sic.) on the bodies of their patients who have previously suffered from chickenpox? — DR. J. R. LANGMAID, 38 Cumberland Court, Festing Road, Southsea, Hants PO4 ONH.

SENTA FLAMMEA CURTIS (THE FLAME WAINSCOT) AT WYE, KENT. — Two *Senta flammea* appeared on separate nights in early June 1982, in the trap I run at Wye College. Since a number of other migrant species were appearing at the same time, I assumed that the *S. flammea* had arrived from France on the southerly winds which had been blowing for several days. However, when a *Mythimna obsoleta* Hbn. also appeared, and bearing in mind that two *Arenostola phragmitidis* Hbn. had turned up the previous summer, I began to suspect that these *Phragmites* feeders might be of local origin, and therefore sugared and ran a Heath trap in the largest reed bed in the area. I was rewarded by finding six *flammea* and five *M. obsoleta* (one at sugar, the rest at light). So it seems rather likely that both species exist as breeding populations in the Wye area. — M. A. ENFIELD,